

AS
microprocessor, then performs the required processing and switching in application of the program.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

Sub B1
1. (Amended) A switch provided with a signaling coupler, the switch including an interpreter to produce a signaling configuration on receiving a predetermined character string corresponding to an order to send a signaling message, the signaling configuration depending on the signaling resources accessible to the coupler.

AS
2. (Amended) The switch according to claim 1, wherein the coupler has a receiver for adding a receive flag to a received signaling message, a detector for recognizing whether the received signaling message is addressed to the switch, and to process the message accordingly, and a translator for replacing the receive flag with the predetermined character string if the switch is not itself the destination.

3. (Amended) A method of sending a signaling message by a switch, the method comprising the following steps:

a predetermined character string corresponding to a predetermined send order for said signaling message is added to said signaling message; and

said send order is interpreted in an interpreter of a switch to produce a signaling configuration of said switch, the signaling configuration depending on the signaling resources available to the switch.

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein, to add the predetermined character string to the signaling message:

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a signaling message is received in a receiving exchange;

a receive flag is added thereto;

the destination of said signaling message is tested; and

if a destination of the signaling message is different from said receiving exchange, the flag is replaced by said predetermined character string.

Please add the following new claims:

--5. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein said interpreter is configured to process at least one of: an IP protocol, a frame relay protocol, an ATM protocol, a switched X25 protocol, a generic modem protocol and a switched B channel protocol.--

--6. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein said interpreter is one of (a) a microprocessor associated with a program and (b) a working session in a processor running said switch.--

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--7. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said interpreter comprises a circuit configured to process at least one of: an IP protocol, a frame relay protocol, an ATM protocol, a switched X25 protocol, a generic modem protocol and a switched B channel protocol.--

--8. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said interpreter comprises one of (a) a microprocessor associated with a program and (b) a working session in a processor running said switch.--